

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

The Carer's Assessment: Carer's Support Plan

Question 1: Should we change the name of the carer's assessment to the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

This seems like an interesting and innovative suggestion. Macmillan have long been concerned with the lack of take up of Assessments – and this name change could well help improve the situation.

Question 2: Should we remove the substantial and regular test so that all carers will be eligible for the Carer's Support Plan?

Yes

No

In principle we would support this change.

Question 3: Should we remove that part of the existing carer assessment process whereby the cared-for person is a person for whom the local authority must or may provide community care services/children's services?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 4: Should we introduce two routes through to the Carer's Support Plan – at the carer's request and by the local authority making an offer?

Yes

No

Yes, we strongly support this. It is vital that carer assessments are offered as well as requested. In addition, we will all need to address how Health & Social Care Partnerships handle identifying assessment needs in different parts of the country – which may be led by the health service or may continue to be led by the local authority.

The recent Care Bill in England committed to producing guidance for the NHS to ensure it identifies carers.

The consultation also discusses third sector involvement in undertaking carers assessments for local authorities. Macmillan has a strong interest in this, particularly through our Macmillan professionals who deal with cancer patients and carers on a daily basis. Indeed, in our new Pilot project in Glasgow with "Glasgow Life" (Improving the Cancer Journey) we have already begun to start this process.

We would be keen to discuss how this could work further as this consultation develops into action.

Question 5: Should we remove from statute the wording about the carer's ability to provide care?

Yes

No

Question 6: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to inform the carer of the length of time it is likely to take to receive the Carer's Support Plan and if it exceeds this time, to be advised of the reasons?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 7: How significant an issue is portability of assessment for service users and carers?

Comments:

Question 8: Should the Scottish Government and COSLA with relevant interests work together to take forward improvements to the portability of assessment?

Yes

No

Comments:

Information and Advice

Question 7: Should we introduce a duty for local authorities to establish and maintain a service for providing people with information and advice relating to the Carer's Support Plan and support for carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Macmillan Cancer Support place great emphasis on Information & Support to help people through their cancer journey. In parts of Scotland work closely with local authorities (and health services) to help people get information and advice. We would be keen to investigate how Macmillan could help local authorities provide

information & support to carers dealing with cancer patients.

Question 8: Should we repeal section 12 of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 about the submission of Carer information Strategies to Scottish Ministers, subject to reassurances, which are subject in turn to Spending Review decisions, about the continuation of funding to Health Boards for support to carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments:

Support to Carers (other than information and advice)

Question 9: Should we introduce a duty to support carers and young carers, linked to an eligibility framework?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 10: Alternatively, should we retain the existing discretionary power to support carers and young carers?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 11: Should we introduce a duty to provide short breaks?

Yes

No

Comments:

Stages and Transitions

Question 12: Should we issue statutory guidance on the Carer's Support Plan which will include guidance for those undertaking the Carer's Support Plan on managing stages of caring? This would apply to adult carers only. (For young carers, practice guidance will be developed to support management of a Child's Plan through the stages of caring).

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 13: Should new carers' legislation provide for young carers to have a Carer's Support Plan if they seem likely to become an adult carer? Any agreed support recorded in the Carer's Support Plan would be put in place after the young carer becomes a (young) adult carer.

Yes

No

Comments:

Carer Involvement

Question 14: Should there be carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for the people they care for and support for carers in areas outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

This would be a very welcome step. Macmillan research shows there is huge pressure on cancer carers, and very often they don't know about what services are available – or those services that are available do not match carers needs. Carer involvement would at least begin to help tackle this from the outset.

Question 15: Should we make provision for the involvement of carers' organisations in the planning, shaping and delivery of services and support falling outwith the scope of integration?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 16: Should we establish a principle about carer and young carer involvement in care planning for service users (subject to consent) and support for themselves in areas not covered in existing legislation?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 17: What are your views on making provision for young carer involvement in the planning, shaping and delivery of services for cared-for people and support for young carers?

Comments:

Planning and Delivery

Question 18: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that a local authority and each relevant Health Board must collaborate and involve relevant organisations and carers in the development of local carers strategies which must be kept under review and updated every three years?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 19: Should we introduce statutory provision to the effect that local authorities with Health Boards must take steps to ensure, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that a sufficient range of services is available for meeting the needs for support to carers and young carers in the area?

Yes

No

Comments:

Identification

Question 20: Should there be no legislative provision for GPs or local authorities to maintain a Carers Register in order to support the identification of carers?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 21: Should the Scottish Government ensure that good practice is widely spread amongst Health Boards about the proactive use of Registers of Carers within GP practices?

Yes

No

Comments:

Question 22: Should the Scottish Government ask Health Boards to monitor compliance with the core contractual elements of the GP contract?

Yes

No

Comments:

Carer and Cared-for Person(s) in Different Local Authority Areas

Question 23: What are the views of respondents on the lead local authority for undertaking the Carer's Support Plan and agreeing support to the carer where the carer lives in a different local authority area to the cared-for person(s)?

Comments:

Question 24: What are the views of respondents on which local authority should cover the costs of support to the carer in these circumstances?

Comments:

Question 25: Should the Scottish Government with COSLA produce guidance for local authorities?

Yes

No

Comments: